Myocardial Infarction in Women, edited by Michael F. Oliver, Anders Vedin and Claes Wilhelmsson. Pp. xi + 226, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £30.00.

This is a successor to *Coronary Heart Disease in Young Women*, which appeared in 1978, also published by Churchill Livingstone, and edited by Professor Michael Oliver. Inevitably, conclusions about the causes of coronary heart disease in women largely depend on comparisons with data from the much larger number of studies on men. These figure prominently but usefully in what is a valuable collection of reviews on various aspects of coronary heart disease in general as well as on its determinants in women. The scene is set in an interesting and stimulating paper by Professor F.H. Epstein, who considers time trends and sex differences in coronary heart disease. Geographical variation in death rates from coronary heart disease is much more pronounced in men than in women. Rates have decreased uniformly in women, though not in men. No one really knows why. Dr. Joan Slack points out that if there is a genetic component of liability to death from coronary heart disease the risk to relatives of affected women will be greater than to those of affected men – a hypothesis that has been confirmed by family studies and studies of twins. There is little doubt as to the adverse effects of oral contraceptives on blood pressure and the risk of stroke or coronary heart disease. These are some of the clues discussed in early chapters. Later on, though, the unresolved question of the relationship of the menopause to coronary heart disease and the puzzling and conflicting results of studies of the relationship between post-menopausal oestrogen use and coronary heart disease are high-lighted. Atherosclerosis is probably more prevalent in men than women of the same age though not necessarily by enough to explain their different experience of clinically manifest coronary heart disease. In clinical studies, coronary arteriography in young women has shown surprisingly frequent cases of myocardial infarction not associated with coronary atherosclerosis which – to air a personal view – points to the importance of considering mechanisms other than changes in the vessel wall. Professor Oliver concludes with four possible explanations for the lower incidence of CHD in women – a lower prevalence of risk factors, a better tolerance of risk factors, hormonal and metabolic differences giving relative protection to women and differences in clinical presentation. A little progress has been made but the basic problem remains. Meanwhile, those who need authoritative and well referenced reviews of many aspects of coronary heart disease, whether in men or women, will find them here.

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Rob and Smith's Operative Surgery: Thoracic Surgery, Fourth edition, edited by John W. Jackson and D.K.C. Cooper. Pp. xvii + 380, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £80.00

Operative Surgery has been for many surgeons the standard reference series. In this fourth edition '*Cardiothoracic Surgery*' has been replaced by separate cardiac and thoracic sections, with a doubling of total pages. While the cardiac section has departed from the traditional format by the inclusion of long didactic chapters (and may have lost its way) this volume devoted to the non-cardiac component of thoracic surgery has retained the original flavour.

It is essentially for reference and should not be regarded as a text book from which to study the subject as a whole. The assistant at an operation new to him, the young surgeon extending his repertoire, or the consultant confronted with one of the rarities can all find guidance, quickly and clearly. It should also help the non-specialist coping with an unforeseen problem or complication. The wealth of illustration with high quality pen and ink drawing remains a great strength and it is pleasing to see the artists' names in the headlines and front sheets rather than tagged on in small italic print.

The late John Jackson was joined in editing by David Cooper, now in Cape Town. The series has become international but more than half of these authors are British including the new wave pulmonary and oesophageal specialists. Inevitably, I cannot agree with everything advocated in this book and there will be no individual who does, but the clarity and good sense of the teaching makes it safe and reliable. A large variety of procedures are involved in thoracic surgery, and the outcome and the quality of the result are often governed by technique. An easily accessible operative manual is of great value and should be available in the unit, not locked up in the academic centre. A book of one's own is even better – my copy of the third edition certainly saw plenty of use.

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The Interphalangeal Joints, edited by William H. Bowers. **The Hand and Upper Limb**, Vol. 1. Pp. ix + 274, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £50.00.

William Bowers has brought together some of the legends of hand surgery to discuss the most difficult of all the surgical problems in the hand. The book is extremely well laid out in 5 sections, the first section covering the anatomy and biomechanics. The contribution by Littler and Thompson is stimulating and informative. The discussion of the biomechanics by Paul Brand and his associates is quite excellent in its detail and its conclusions, and this section really brings home to the reader just how complex the practical biomechanics of this joint are.

The second section on repair and reconstruction of injury is a quite excellent contribution in that it brings together the standard procedures and the difficulties that may be encountered.

tered in the management of injuries in this region.

Joseph Imbriglia has covered the problem of rheumatoid disease clearly and with a clear understanding of the difficulties as seen in this particular group. The remainder of the section discusses degenerative arthritis, arthroplasties and arthrodesis and really covers the field extremely well.

Dieter Buck-Gramcko's section on congenital and developmental conditions is quite excellent, and the final section on rehabilitation is an extremely good guide to the therapist endeavouring to treat patients with problems at this level.

Each chapter has an excellent bibliography. The line drawings and plates are clear and well produced and the index is comprehensive. This book is the first in a series planned by Churchill Livingstone, and at the moment 9 such volumes covering individual areas of hand surgery are planned. *The Interphalangeal Joints* is the first in this series and will be a must for any surgeon who is undertaking any significant amount of hand surgery. If the remaining planned volumes are of the same high quality this series will be of a quality to rival the GEM series.

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Pathology for the Primary FRCS, D.L. Gardner and D.E.F. Tweedle. Pp. iii + 216, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1986. £11.95.

This book takes a novel approach to pathology. The authors have somehow noted the topics raised in recent pathology vivas for the Primary FRCS, put them into alphabetical order, and provided under each heading what they think the examiners would want the candidate to know about each one. This format produces some strange bedfellows, for example, collagen disease, commensal organisms, complement, and congenital disease, can be found on the same double page spread.

What needs to be known ranges from one liners, such as 'Hepatitis A is mainly of medical significance', which would obviously go down well at a Reagan press conference, to three and a half pages on irradiation, with four subheadings and five tables.

Many topical subjects, such as monoclonal antibodies, oncogenes, tumour markers, the immunogold technique, are here, but some controversial matters get fairly short shrift, for example, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, and some cannot be found in the index at all – parotid tumours do not appear under 'parotid', 'tumour', 'pleomorphic adenoma', 'mixed parotid tumour', or 'salivary gland tumour'. In fact, trying to put myself in the place of a candidate, I think I would ignore the rather good index altogether and enjoy reading the book straight through in the nights between the papers and the viva – the bits I already knew would be encouraging and those I did not might stick, especially the too few biographical footnotes. Who was Ziehl-Neelson?

It is nicely produced for the white coat or dressing gown pocket, not particularly user-friendly because it will not stay open at the page, and it has an attractive cover photograph,

in which I presume the examiner is the one on the left with the greying sideburns. Which of these topics was under discussion?

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Nutrition and Feeding of the Handicapped Child, edited by Iris M. Crump. Pp. xi + 163, illustrated. Taylor and Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1987. £17.50.

This book provides a practical source of information about nutrition and handicapped children. The underlying theme is that developmental potential can be maximised by the maintenance of good nutrition. The authors from San Diego are dietetic and educational experts, thus the text includes suggestions for nutritional educational programmes applicable in the classroom and individually. The first chapter consists of a basic and readable account of recommended dietary allowances and the factors which affect nutritional needs, the functions of different nutrients and the signs of deficiency states. Food sources are listed and a table giving the contents of different servings at meal times is included, the terminology reflecting the Californian life style. A brief chapter on the interaction of drugs is followed by a section on the evaluation of dietary uptake and nutritional status. Children with developmental disabilities have difficulties in integrating sensory information as well as having problems with the physical mobility needed for handling food. These concepts form the basis for a useful presentation of the interdependence of feeding, speech and sensory modulation and their relationship with the development of sucking, chewing and swallowing. The importance of detailed assessment of an individual child in relation to the underlying pathogenesis of disruptive behaviour patterns is discussed, leading on to advice on the use of specific treatment techniques. Disorders such as vomiting, rumination, constipation and diarrhoea are mentioned in the context of practical suggestions on management; allergies of course are not forgotten. Obesity receives special attention, the author's weight control programme is described in detail complete with record charts and specimen contracts for parents and participants. A separate chapter on the atmosphere at meal times is devoted to successful school eating arrangements discussing specialized staff and equipment and menu planning. Management of inappropriate behaviour and dealing with difficult children is illustrated with case studies.

The book ends with examples of ways in which nutritional and dietary management can be expressed within the individual educational programmes (IEPs) which are required by Federal Legislation for all children receiving special education services in public schools. The strategies needed in designing instructional goals, assessment of competence, feedback and review are all outlined. The whole text is enlivened with line drawings and diagrams which even include a teaching wordsearch. A short glossary, a useful index, and a list of American information and support organisations is provided. The book is well presented and will